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SP
01-16-04

03500.015331

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Masashi HAMADA) : Examiner: Unassigned
Application No.: 09/842,042) : Group Art Unit: 2131
Filed: April 26, 2001) :
For: INFORMATION PROCESSING) : January 14, 2004
APPARATUS) :

RECEIVED

JAN 15 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

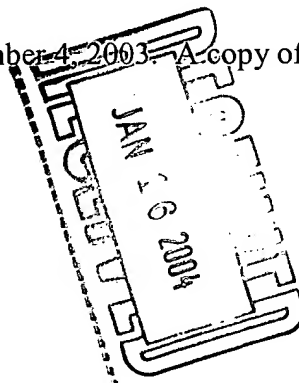
Technology Center 2100

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

These documents were recently cited in a European Search Report issued on a counterpart application, which is dated December 4, 2003. A copy of that communication is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

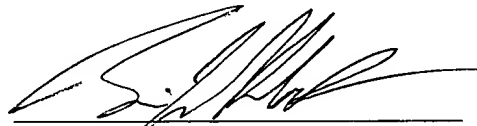


Applicants submit that no fee is required since no Office Action has been issued. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fee required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner, and that the Examiner initial the enclosed Form PTO-1449 indicating that the information listed thereon has been considered and return a copy of the initialed form.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian L. Klock", written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant

Brian L. Klock

Registration No. 36,570

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
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BLK/lmj

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|---|--|---|----------|---|-------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) Submitted to the PTO: January 14, 2004 | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.015331 | | APPLICATION NO. 09/842,042 | | | |
| | | APPLICANT <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Masashi HAMADA</div> | | | | | |
| | | FILING DATE <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">April 26, 2001</div> | | GROUP <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">2131</div> | | | |
| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | | 6,012,636 | 1/11/00 | Smith | | | |
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| | | | | | | | |
| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
| | | 0 633 519 A1 | 01/11/95 | Europe | | | |
| | | 0 935 182 A1 | 08/11/99 | Europe | | | |
| | | WO 97/29416 | 08/14/97 | WIPO | | | |
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| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | | |
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| | | | | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | |

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

BLK\lmj